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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairperson Rhoades and members of the House Appropriations Committee
From: Jill Ann Wolters, Senior Assistant Revisor
Date: March 15, 2012
Subject: HB2785, concerning the Kansas Bioscience Authority

House Bill No. 2785 amends three statutes concerning the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA).

Under current law, one of the two members appointed by the Speaker shall be the agricultural expert who is recognized for outstanding knowledge and leadership in the field of bioscience. The bill would still require a member to be an agricultural expert, but would not require the Speaker to appoint such member. (K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 74-99b04)

The bill also limits KBA members to two consecutive four year terms, currently it is three terms.

K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 74-99b08 currently provides that if a KBA member of the board, employee, other agent or advisor of the authority has a direct or indirect interest in any contract or transaction with the KBA, the person had to disclose this information in writing and place such disclosure in the KBA meeting minutes. The amendment would prohibit any KBA member of the board or any director, employee, other agent or advisor of the authority from having a direct interest in any contract or transaction with the authority. Any member of the board or director who has a direct interest in any contract or transaction with the authority shall either resign such director's or member's position on the authority or divest such interest.

Finally, the bill provides that KBA can not affiliate with KPERS for its employees after July 1, 2012. Any employees currently in KPERS would be allowed to remain. It is my understanding that KBA has not affiliated with KPERS.